

## TENZING NORGAY

Tenzing Norgay was known as the Tiger of the Snows because of his passion for mountains and mountaineering.

His story is an inspiration to all, the story of a person from a very humble background who dared to dream of reaching the highest peak in the world. It is the story of his indomitable spirit which saw him attempt Everest several times, before finally reaching its summit along with Edmund Hillary on 29 May 1953.

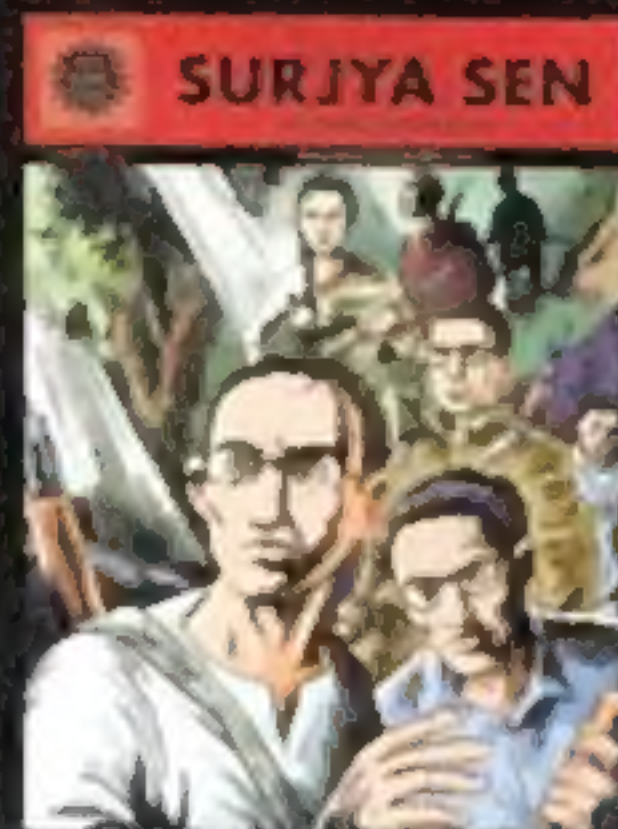
Tenzing's best-known legacy to Indian mountaineering is the Himalayan Mountaineering Institute (HMI), which he nurtured almost up to his death in 1986.

Here he used the skills he'd learned over a lifetime and passed them down to younger generations. They were simple skills - courage, determination, resourcefulness and the ability to face challenges - skills that were the secret of his success and made him a figure as large as the mountains he loved.

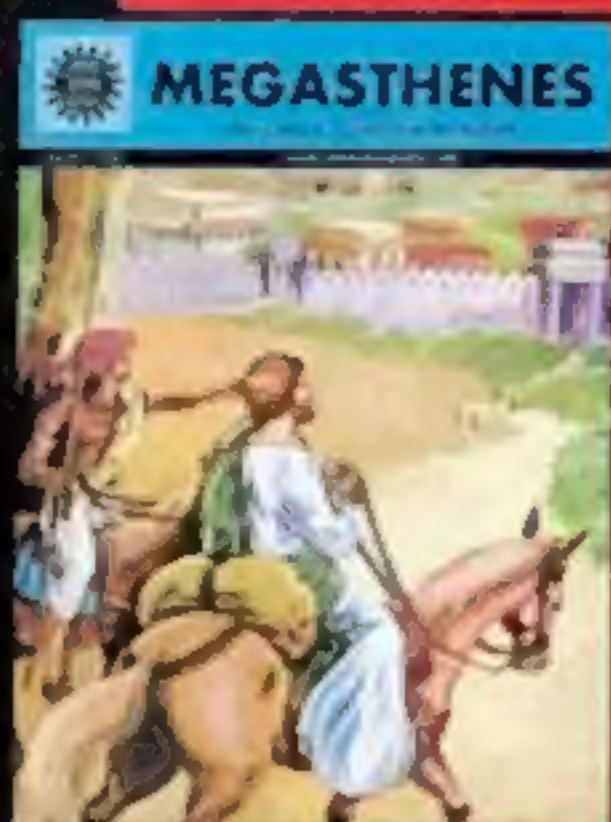
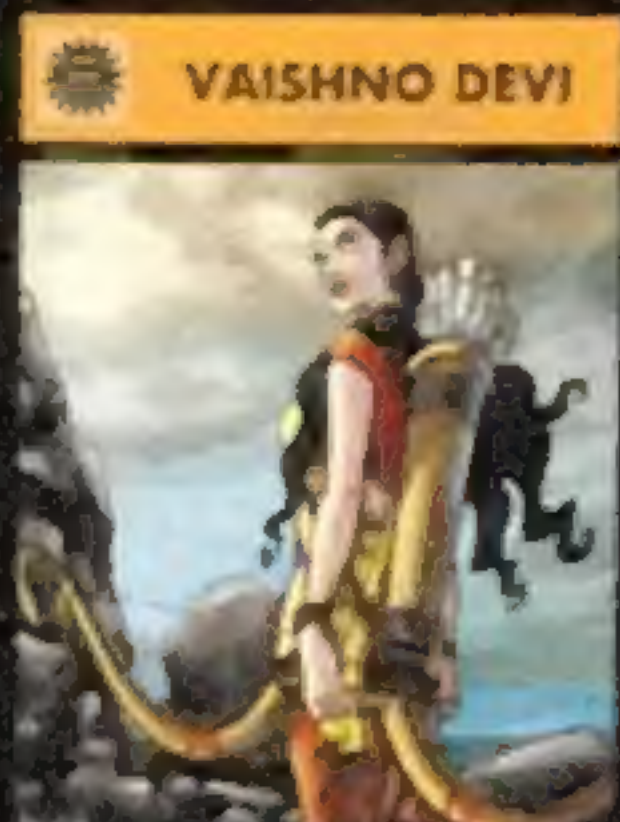
*Bachendri Pal*

*First Indian woman to climb Mt Everest.*

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# TENZING NORGAY

ON TOP OF THE WORLD

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- NARAYAN MURTHY, CHAIRMAN EMERITUS, INFOSYS

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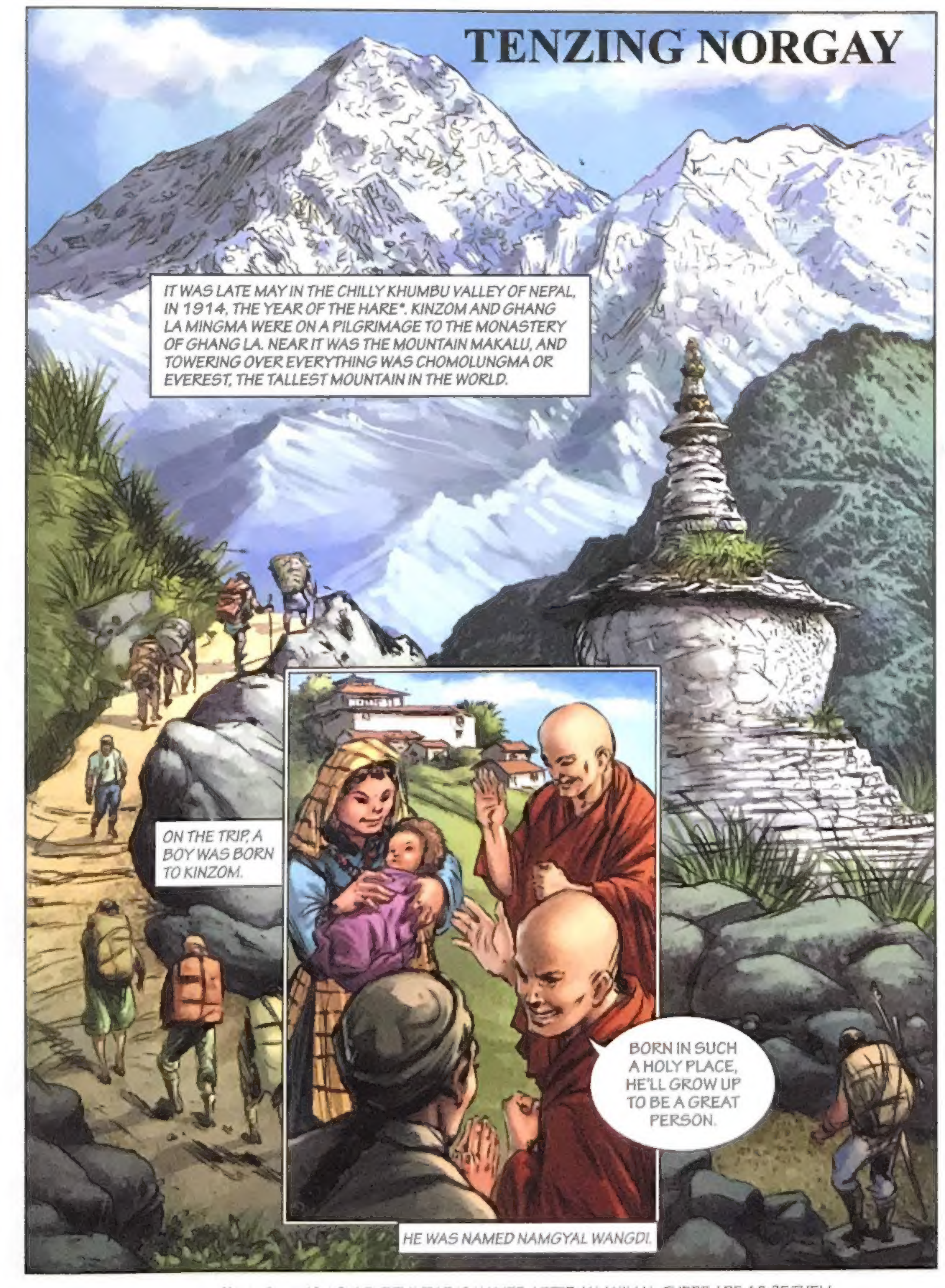
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# TENZING NORGAY



IT WAS LATE MAY IN THE CHILLY KHUMBU VALLEY OF NEPAL, IN 1914, THE YEAR OF THE HARE\*. KINZOM AND GHANG LA MINGMA WERE ON A PILGRIMAGE TO THE MONASTERY OF GHANG LA. NEAR IT WAS THE MOUNTAIN MAKALU, AND TOWERING OVER EVERYTHING WAS CHOMOLUNGMA OR EVEREST, THE TALLEST MOUNTAIN IN THE WORLD.

ON THE TRIP, A BOY WAS BORN TO KINZOM.



BORN IN SUCH A HOLY PLACE, HE'LL GROW UP TO BE A GREAT PERSON.

HE WAS NAMED NAMGYAL WANGDI.



THE FAMILY LIVED IN A VILLAGE NAMED THAMEY. WHEN NAMGYAL WAS VERY LITTLE -



"I FORESEE A GREAT FUTURE FOR HIM! YOU MUST RENAME HIM."



LET'S CALL HIM TENZING NORGAY.

TENZING MEANS 'FOLLOWER OF RELIGION' AND NORGAY MEANS 'FORTUNATE.'

TENZING TURNED OUT TO BE LUCKY FOR THE FAMILY, FOR THAT YEAR A HUNDRED YAK WERE BORN IN THEIR HERD. AS TENZING GREW OLDER -



CHOMOLUNGMA IS SO TALL!

AMA LA\*, WHAT DOES CHOMOLUNGMA MEAN?

GODDESS MOTHER OF THE WORLD. OR THE MOUNTAIN SO HIGH NO BIRD CAN FLY OVER IT.

IMAGINE BEING SO HIGH!

PERHAPS SOMEONE WILL CLIMB TO THE TOP!

TENZING'S PARENTS SENT HIM TO A MONASTERY TO LEARN TO READ AND WRITE.

TENZING DREAMED OF ADVENTURE.

\* TIBETAN BUDDHISTS BELIEVE THAT RENAMING A CHILD SYMBOLISES GIVING HIM A NEW LIFE.  
^ MOTHER

TENZING NORGAY

TENZING WAS UNHAPPY TO BE COOPED UP IN THE MONASTERY. ONE DAY -



YOU'RE SKIPPING CLASSES AGAIN?

OW!



I'M NOT STAYING HERE!



TENZING RAN STRAIGHT HOME.

MANY PEOPLE IN TENZING'S VILLAGE USED TO GO AWAY DURING THE SUMMER. THESE SHERPAS\* TALKED OF HOW THEY CLIMBED TALL MOUNTAINS WITH FOREIGNERS. TENZING WAS FASCINATED.



HA HA! I WORE THEM ON EVEREST.

CAN I TRY ON YOUR BOOTS? I'LL GIVE YOU MY POCKET MONEY. WHERE DID YOU WEAR THEM?

EVEREST?



CHOMOLUNGMA. THE FOREIGNERS SAY IT'S THE HIGHEST PEAK IN THE WORLD.

CAN I CLIMB IT TOO?



YOU'RE TOO YOUNG. BESIDES, IT'S DANGEROUS.

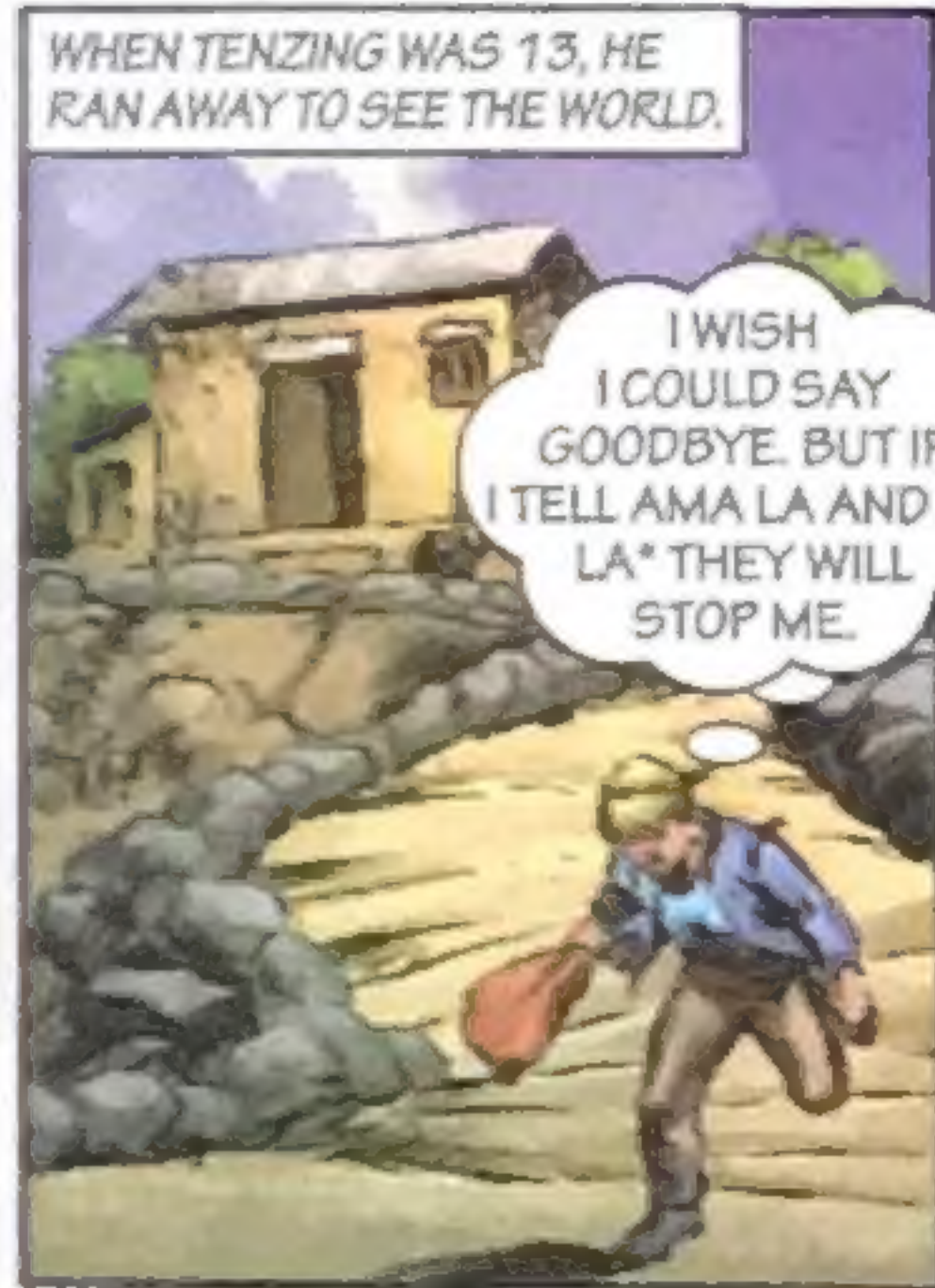


IT WAS DANGEROUS. IN 1924, TENZING HEARD THAT TWO CLIMBERS - MALLORY AND IRVINE - HAD DISAPPEARED CLOSE TO THE TOP OF EVEREST.

\*SHERPAS LIVE IN THE HILLY AREAS OF TIBET AND NEPAL, AND ARE FAMOUS FOR BEING GOOD CLIMBERS.



WHEN TENZING WAS 13, HE RAN AWAY TO SEE THE WORLD.



I WISH I COULD SAY GOODBYE. BUT IF I TELL AMA LA AND PA LA\* THEY WILL STOP ME.



BOY! WHERE ARE YOU GOING ALONE?



TO KATHMANDU.

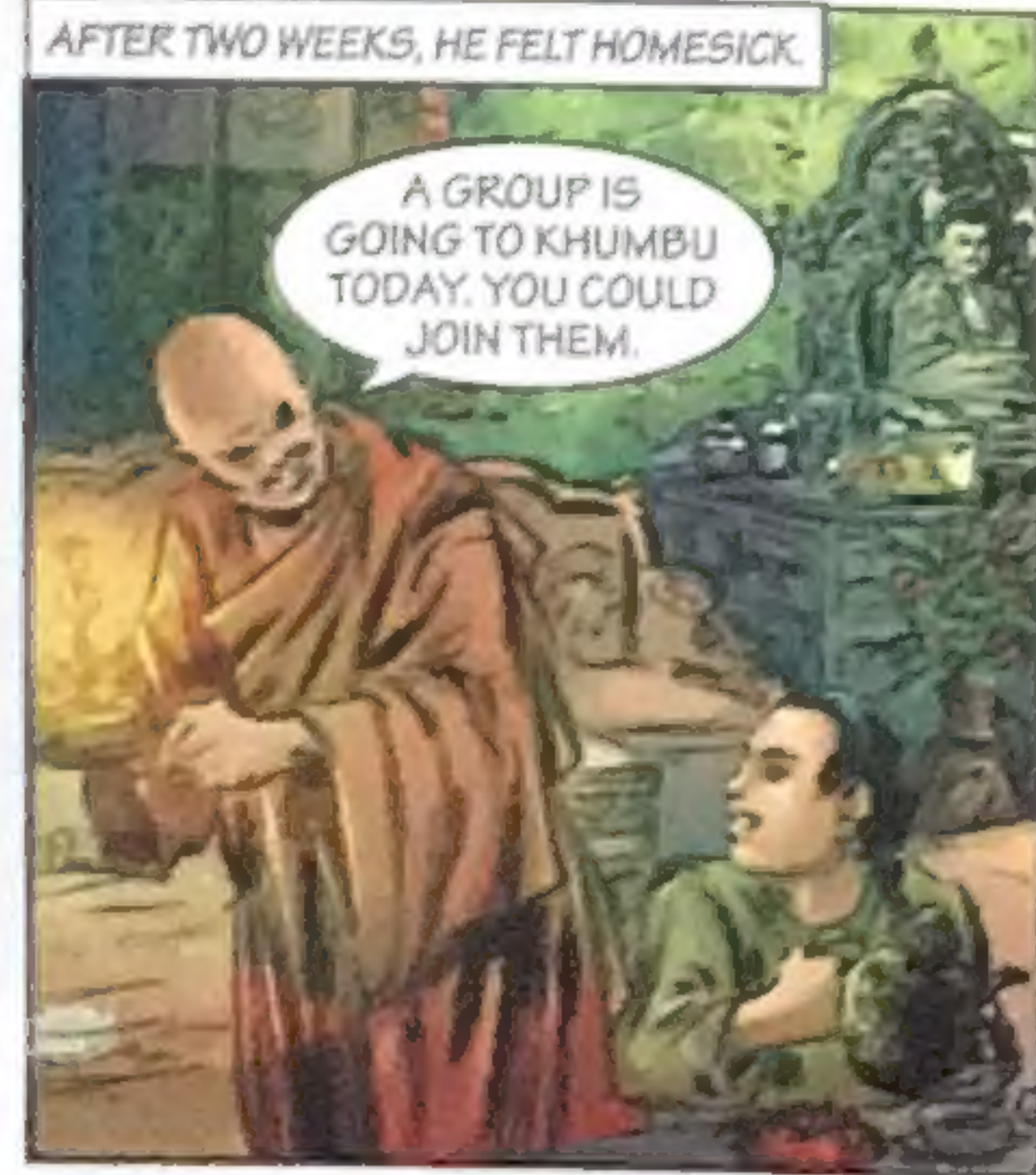
SO ARE WE. JOIN US.

TENZING TRAVELLED SAFELY TO KATHMANDU WITH THE GROUP.

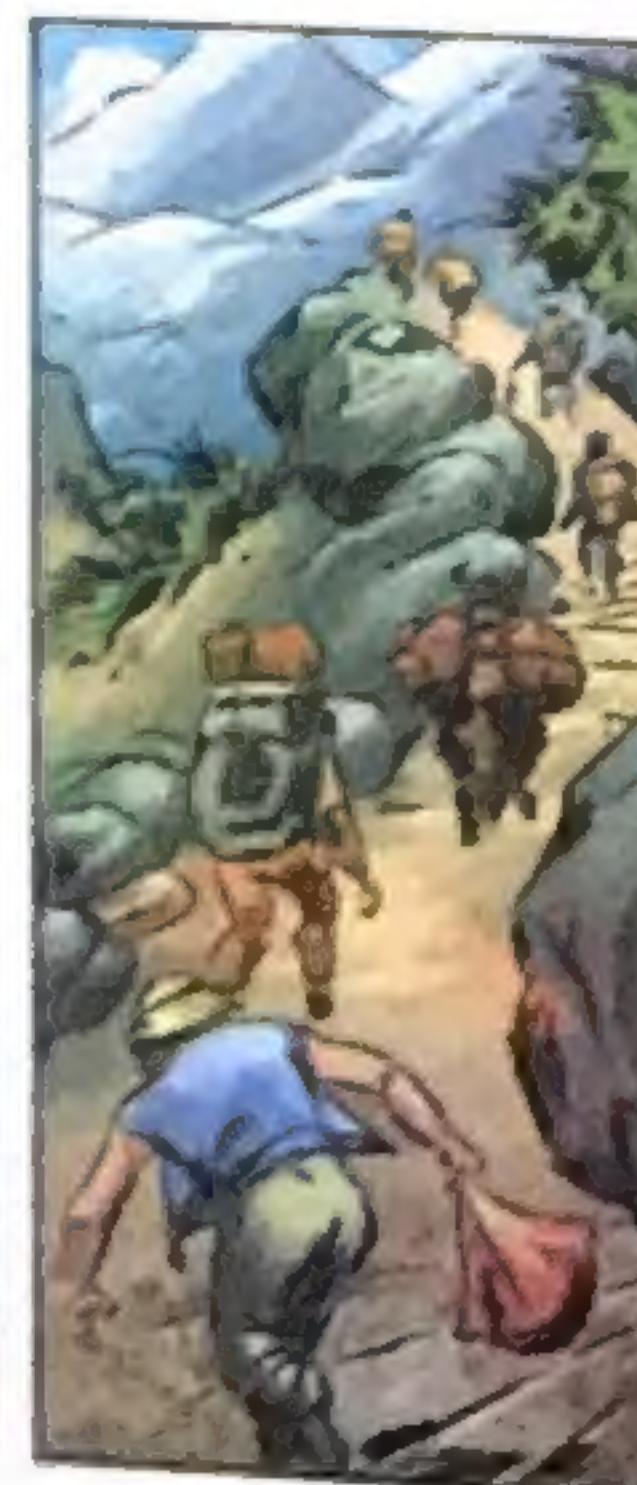
TENZING HAD NEVER SEEN A CITY. HE STAYED IN A BUDDHIST MONASTERY AND EXPLORED KATHMANDU, AWESTRUCK.



AFTER TWO WEEKS, HE FELT HOMESICK.



A GROUP IS GOING TO KHUMBU TODAY. YOU COULD JOIN THEM.



TWO WEEKS LATER -



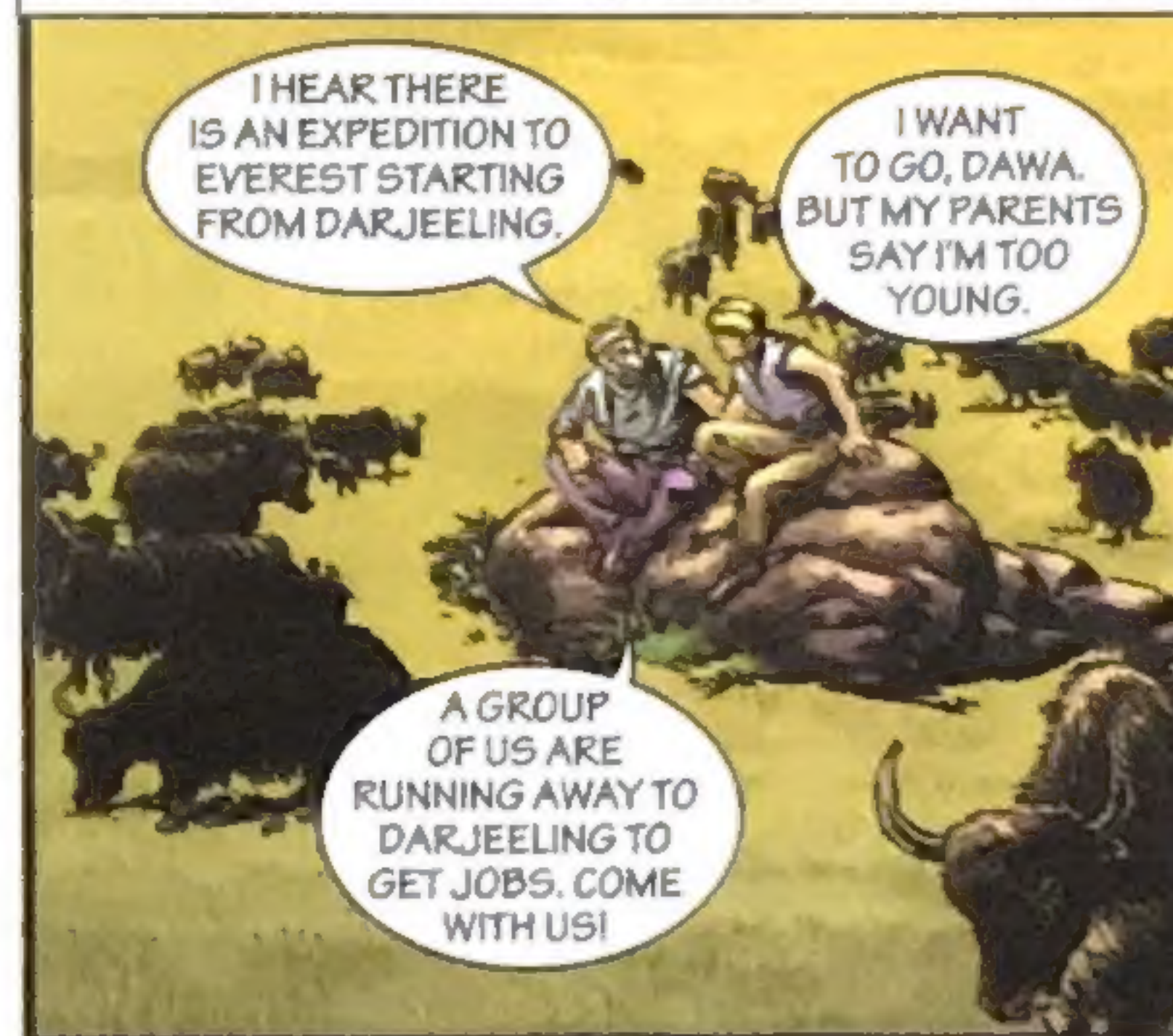
TENZING?

AMA LA, I'M HOME!

TENZING'S PARENTS HUGGED HIM IN DELIGHT. THEN THEY SPANKED HIM FOR RUNNING AWAY.

\*FATHER

ONE DAY, WHEN TENZING WAS 18, HIS FRIEND DAWA THONDUP CAME UP TO HIM.



I HEAR THERE IS AN EXPEDITION TO EVEREST STARTING FROM DARJEELING.

I WANT TO GO, DAWA. BUT MY PARENTS SAY I'M TOO YOUNG.

A GROUP OF US ARE RUNNING AWAY TO DARJEELING TO GET JOBS. COME WITH US!

ONCE MORE, TENZING LEFT HOME.



NEAR THE NEPAL BORDER THERE WAS A MIX-UP, AND TENZING GOT SEPARATED FROM HIS FRIENDS.



YOU LOOK LOST, SON. CAN I HELP YOU?

WHEN TENZING EXPLAINED, THE MAN, RINGA LAMA, TOOK TENZING TO LIVE WITH HIM.

RINGA'S FAMILY WELCOMED TENZING BUT HE WAS UNHAPPY. HE TOLD RINGA ABOUT IT.



... SO NOT ONLY HAVE I LEFT MY PARENTS, IT'S FOR NOTHING! MY FRIENDS WILL CLIMB EVEREST WITHOUT ME.

I WISH I COULD GET TO DARJEELING!

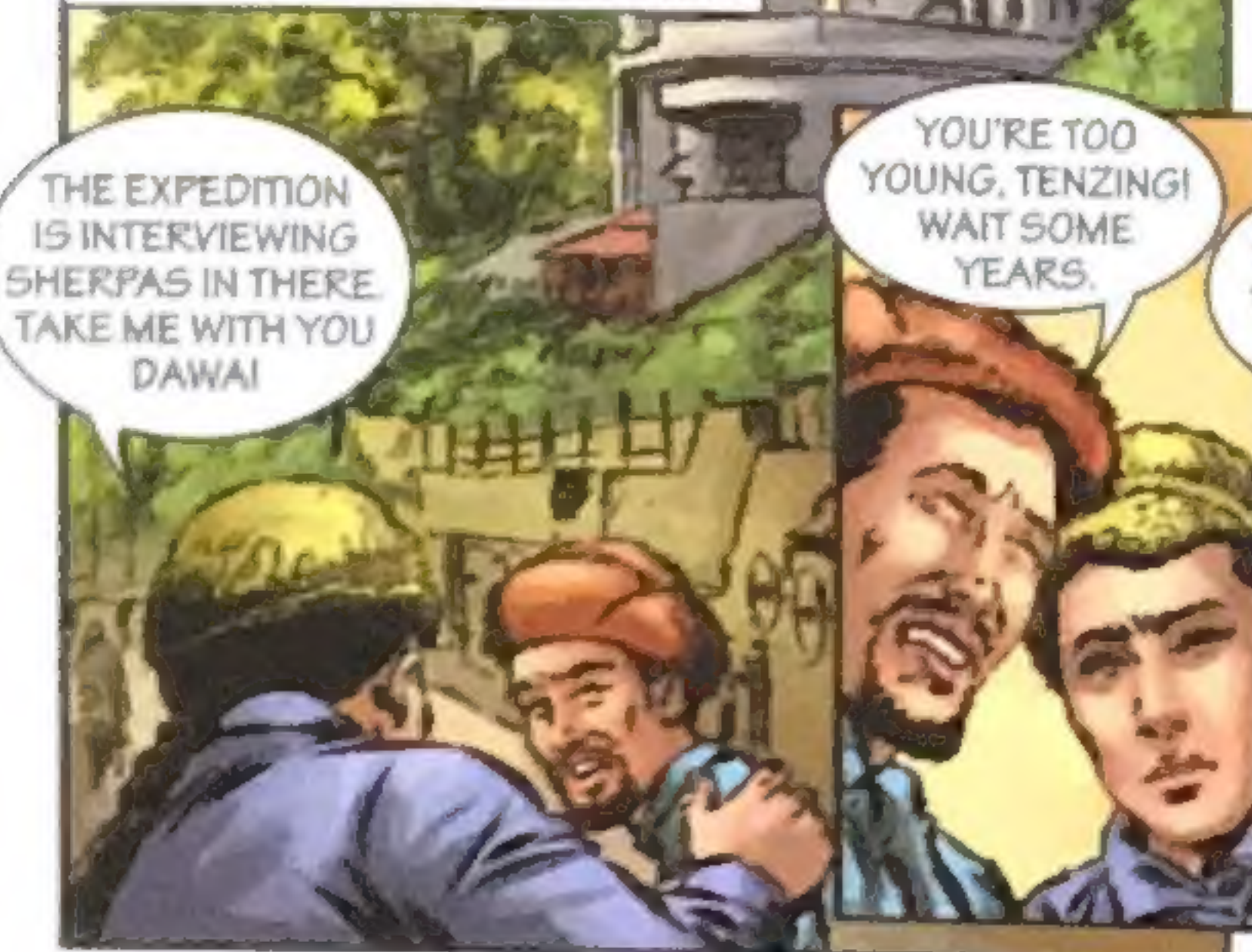
MY COUSIN LIVES THERE. I'LL TAKE YOU.



IN DARJEELING, TENZING DID ODD JOBS, LIKE DELIVERING MILK FOR RINGA'S COUSIN. HE LEARNED NEPALI. BUT THE BEST PART WAS THE VIEW OF THE HIMALAYAS, KANCHENJUNGA TOWERING IN THE MIDDLE.



MEANWHILE, PREPARATIONS BEGAN FOR THE BRITISH EXPEDITION TO EVEREST.



YOU'RE TOO YOUNG, TENZING! WAIT SOME YEARS.

WE CAN'T TAKE YOU THEN.

BUT TENZING COULD NOT WAIT.



SO TENZING WENT BACK TO DELIVERING MILK.

HE HAD BEEN IN DARJEELING ALMOST A YEAR WHEN, ONE DAY, HE MET A SHERPA FROM THAMEY.



OH NO! I MUST GO TO THEM.

I'LL STAY AND HELP REBUILD THE HOUSE.

IN HIS ABSENCE, AN EARTHQUAKE HAD DAMAGED THEIR HOUSE.



TENZING! WE'RE SO GLAD YOU'RE ALIVE.

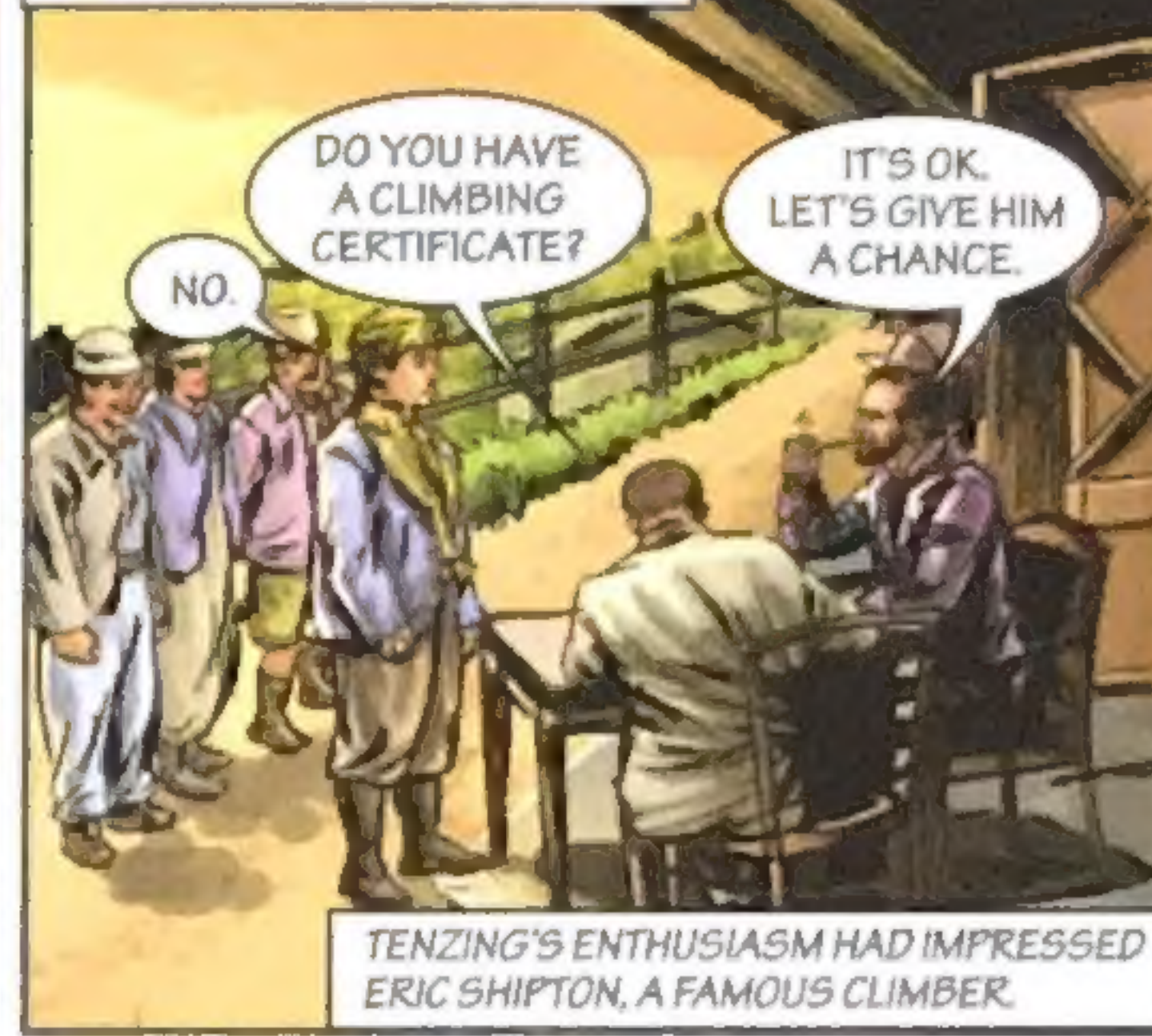
A YEAR LATER, TENZING LEFT FOR DARJEELING ONCE MORE.

A YEAR LATER, TENZING LEFT FOR DARJEELING ONCE MORE.

IN 1935, TENZING MARRIED DAWA PHUTI.



HE WAS ALSO INTERVIEWED FOR ANOTHER BRITISH EXPEDITION TO EVEREST.



TENZING'S ENTHUSIASM HAD IMPRESSED ERIC SHIPTON, A FAMOUS CLIMBER.

AND OFF THEY WENT! ONE DAY, AS THEY NEARED EVEREST -



PA LAI WHAT ARE YOU DOING HERE?

I HEARD YOU WERE GOING TO CHOMOLUNGMA, SO I CAME TO MEET YOU.

THE SHERPAS CARRIED LOADS OF OVER 40 KILOS.



WHAT WOULD WE DO WITHOUT THEM?

THIS EXPEDITION WAS MAINLY FOR RECONNAISSANCE\*. THEY TURNED BACK AT THE NORTH COL (22,000 FT). TENZING FOUGHT HIS DISAPPOINTMENT.



IT WILL BE SO NICE TO GO BACK HOME. HOT FOOD, SOFT BEDS... AH!

SO CLOSE AND YET WE DIDN'T GO TO THE TOP. I WILL COME BACK, ONE DAY.

\* EXPLORING AN AREA TO KNOW MORE ABOUT IT



IN 1936, TENZING WENT BACK TO EVEREST WITH ERIC SHIPTON'S TEAM.



THIS TIME THE STORMY WEATHER MADE THEM TURN BACK.



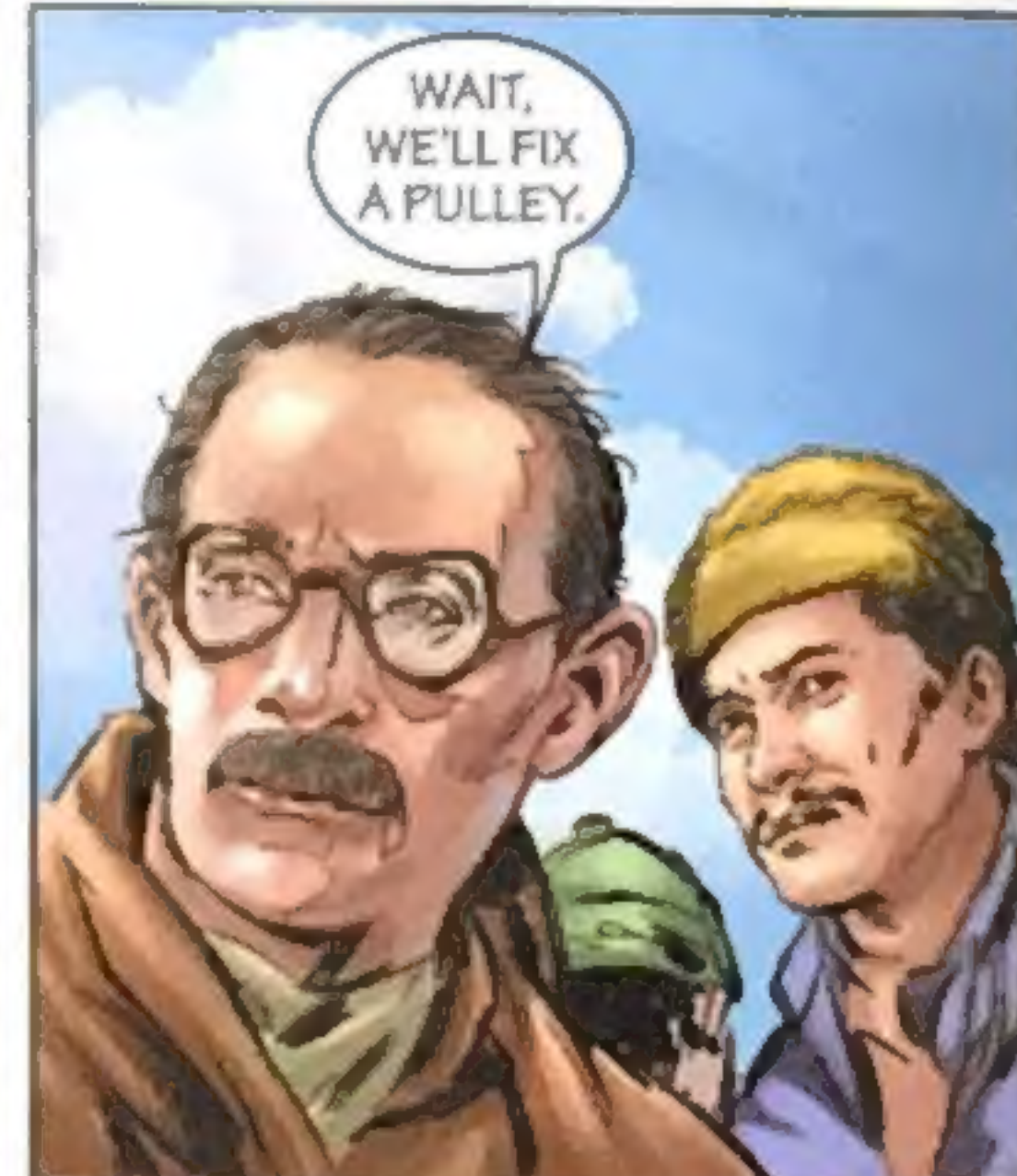
ON THE WAY BACK TO KATHMANDU -

WE'LL CROSS ON A ROPE.



THERE'S NO BRIDGE ACROSS THE RIVER BELOW.

WAIT, WE'LL FIX A PULLEY.



ONE MAN DECIDED TO CROSS WITHOUT THE PULLEY.

HALFWAY ACROSS, HIS HAND SLIPPED.



THOUGH THE OTHERS TRIED TO SAVE HIM...

...HE WAS SWEEPED AWAY.



THIS IS A DANGEROUS JOB!

IT WAS THE FIRST MOUNTAINEERING DEATH TENZING SAW.

IN 1938, HE WAS BACK ON EVEREST. FOR THE FIRST TIME, THEY USED OXYGEN CYLINDERS.



HEAVY SNOW AND RAIN FORCED THEM BACK.

WHEN WORLD WAR II BEGAN IN 1939, THE BRITISH STOPPED THEIR EXPEDITIONS.



TENZING SPENT TIME WITH DAWA PHUTI AND THEIR CHILDREN, NIMA DORJE AND PEM FEM.

TENZING GOT A JOB IN CHITRAL\*, WITH MAJOR WHITE, AN ARMY OFFICER. THERE, HE GOT THE TERRIBLE NEWS THAT HIS SON HAD DIED OF DYSENTERY IN DARJEELING.



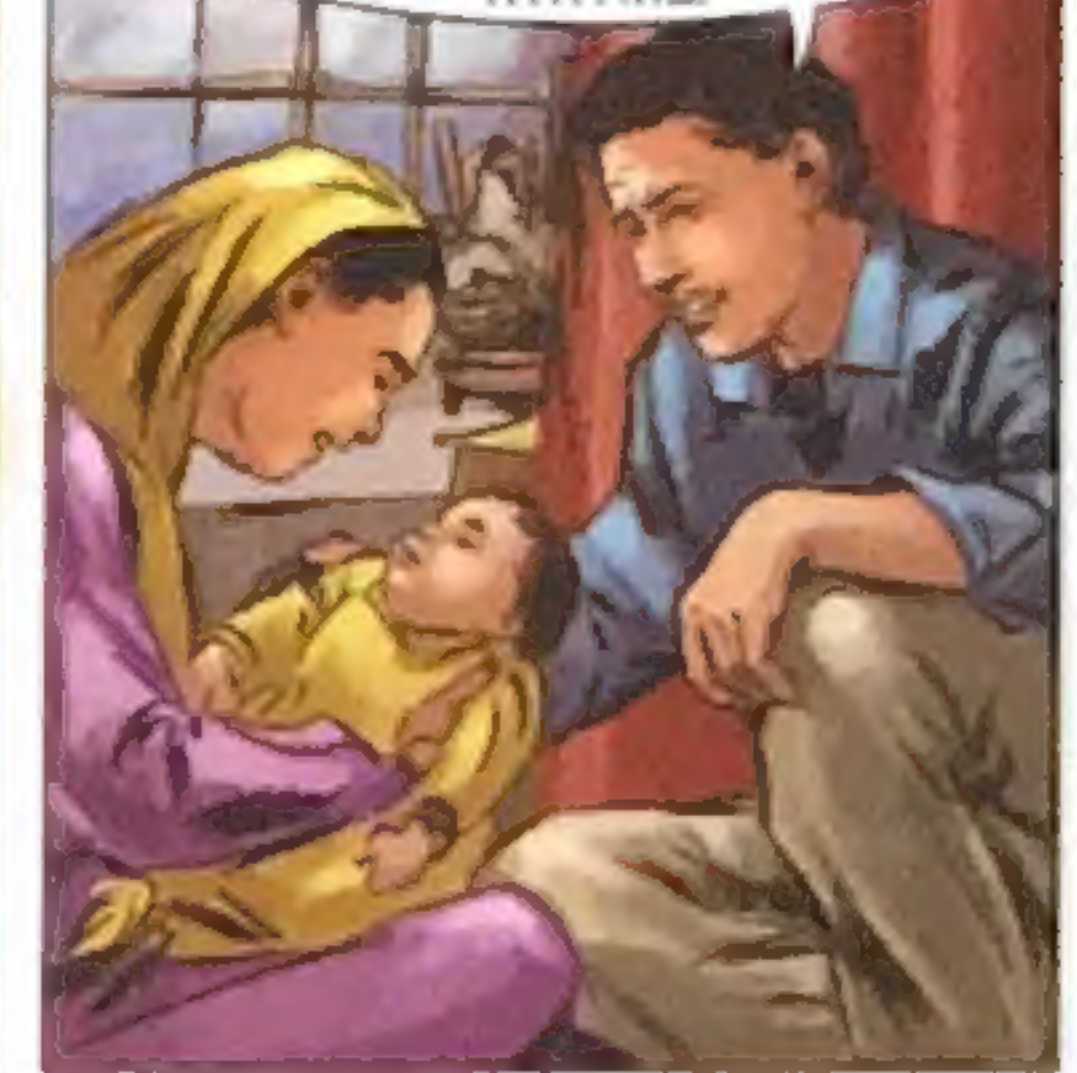
YOUR FAMILY WILL NEED YOU NOW.

OUR SON IS GONE BUT WE HAVE ANOTHER DAUGHTER.

TENZING WENT HOME.



LET'S CALL HER NIMA AFTER OUR POOR SON. YOU MUST COME BACK TO CHITRAL WITH ME.



TENZING LOVED TRAVELLING AROUND WITH THE ARMY. HE LEARNT TO SKI IN KASHMIR...



BUT THE CLIMATE DID NOT AGREE WITH DAWA PHUTI.



DRINK THIS, IT'LL GIVE YOU STRENGTH.

IN 1944, DAWA PHUTI DIED.

TENZING STRUGGLED TO BRING UP HIS DAUGHTERS, BUT -



I UNDERSTAND, YOU MUST RETURN TO YOUR FRIENDS IN DARJEELING.

I CANNOT TAKE CARE OF THEM BY MYSELF, MAJOR WHITE.

SO -



PA LA, THIS IS SO BUMPY!

HUSH, WE'LL BE THERE SOON.





AT THE FOOT OF THE MOUNTAINS WAS A TOWN NAMED DIR.



I'M SORRY, NO GENERAL TICKETS ARE AVAILABLE. THESE ARE ARMY TRAINS.



AFTER WAITING SEVERAL DAYS, TENZING THOUGHT OF A PLAN.

YOU'RE WEARING THE MAJOR'S UNIFORM?

WE WILL NOW BE ABLE TO TRAVEL ON THE TRAIN.



TENZING AND HIS DAUGHTERS TRAVELLED ACROSS INDIA, FROM THE WESTERN END OF THE HIMALAYAS TO DARJEELING IN THE EAST.



BACK IN DARJEELING, TENZING MARRIED THE CHEERFUL AND INTELLIGENT ANG LHAMU. SHE WAS A LOVING MOTHER TO PEM PEM AND NIMA.

YOU WORE A MAJOR'S UNIFORM?

THERE WAS NO OTHER WAY TO GET THE CHILDREN HOME.

SHORTLY BEFORE DARJEELING, TENZING TOOK OFF THE UNIFORM AND THEY GOT OFF THE TRAIN.

1919. TUAKAU, NEW ZEALAND. PERCIVAL AND GERTRUDE HILLARY HAD A SON, EDMUND.



EDMUND GREW UP WITH HIS OLDER SIBLINGS, REX AND JUNE. ED WAS A COMPLETE BOOKWORM AND JUNE WAS HIS LOOK-OUT!



ED! DAD'S HERE! DO TURN OFF THE LIGHT.



JUST WHEN I GOT TO THE EXCITING PART.



SKINNY AND GAWKY, ED JOINED AUCKLAND GRAMMAR SCHOOL WHEN HE WAS 11. IN GYM CLASS, ON HIS FIRST DAY -



WHAT WILL THEY SEND ME NEXT!



YOU'D BETTER GO PLAY WITH THOSE BOYS THERE. THEY'RE BAD AT SPORTS, TOO.



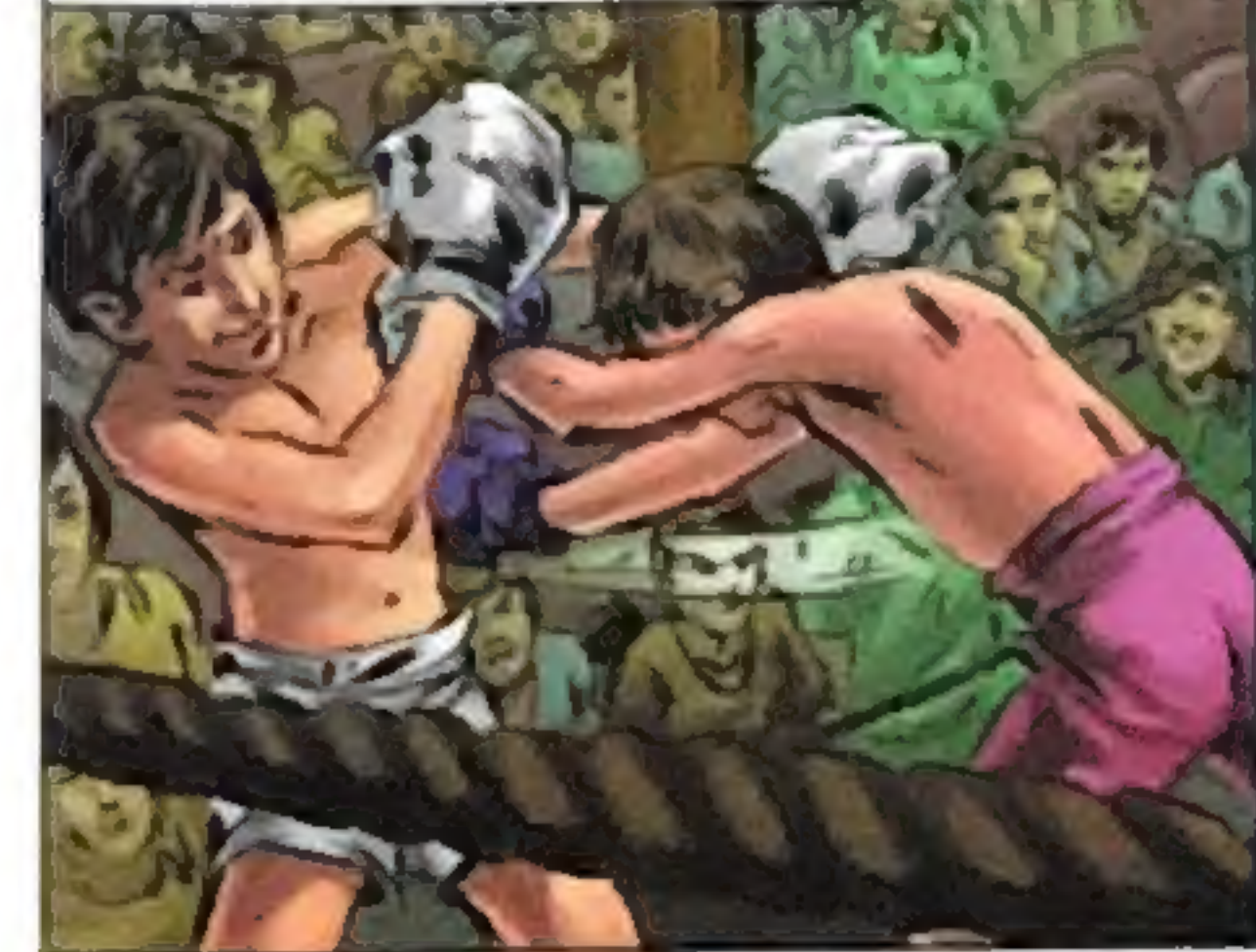
BUT ... I YES SIR.



MAYBE HE IS RIGHT! I MUST BE BAD AT SPORTS.

ED'S EXPERIENCES IN SCHOOL LEFT HIM SHY AND NERVOUS.

AS HE GREW OLDER, ED TOOK UP BOXING, AND GAINED SOME CONFIDENCE.



ON A SCHOOL TRIP TO MOUNT RUAPEHU -



THIS IS WHAT I WANT FROM LIFE - ADVENTURE!

OVER THE NEXT FEW YEARS, ED CLIMBED WHENEVER HE COULD.



1939. WORLD WAR II BEGAN. AT FIRST -

WAR IS A  
TERRIBLE THING.  
I WON'T FIGHT.

ONE DAY, THEY WERE TRYING OUT A MOTOR  
BOAT WHEN THE FUEL TANK EXPLODED.

RONI JUMP!

SEVERELY INJURED, THEY MANAGED  
TO SWIM TO SHORE.

HOME ON SICK LEAVE, ED DECIDED HE HAD MORE INTERESTING  
THINGS TO DO THAN STAYING IN BED - ROCK CLIMBING!

BALANCE  
YOUR  
WEIGHT, ED.

HARRY AYRES, ONE OF NEW ZEALAND'S  
BEST MOUNTAINEERS, WAS ED'S MENTOR.

BUT EVENTUALLY, ED JOINED THE NEW  
ZEALAND AIR FORCE. HE WAS POSTED  
IN FIJI. HERE, HE OFTEN WENT BOATING  
WITH HIS FRIEND, RON WARD.

READY, ED?

ED AND HARRY JOINED A CLIMBING EXPEDITION WITH TWO OTHER MOUNTAINEERS - RUTH ADAMS AND MICK SULLIVAN.

AS THEY CLIMBED LA PEROUSE\* ...

ALL RIGHT, ED?

... RUTH SLIPPED.

OHI

RUTH WAS BADLY INJURED. MICK AND HARRY WENT TO GET HELP.

YOU CAN SIT  
SNUGLY IN HERE.  
IT'LL BE LIKE  
YOUR OWN  
IGLOO!

GROAN!

MICK AND HARRY RETURNED THE NEXT DAY, WITH MORE RESCUERS.

YOU'LL BE  
HOME SOON,  
RUTH.

OVER THE NEXT FIVE DAYS THEY MADE THE LONG SLOW DES.

THEY CLIMBED TO THE SOUTH  
RIDGE OF MT COOK, NEW  
ZEALAND'S HIGHEST PEAK.

ED ALSO PRACTISED CLIMBING  
WITH HIS FRIEND, GEORGE LOWE.

I'D LIKE TO  
CLIMB IN  
SWITZERLAND.

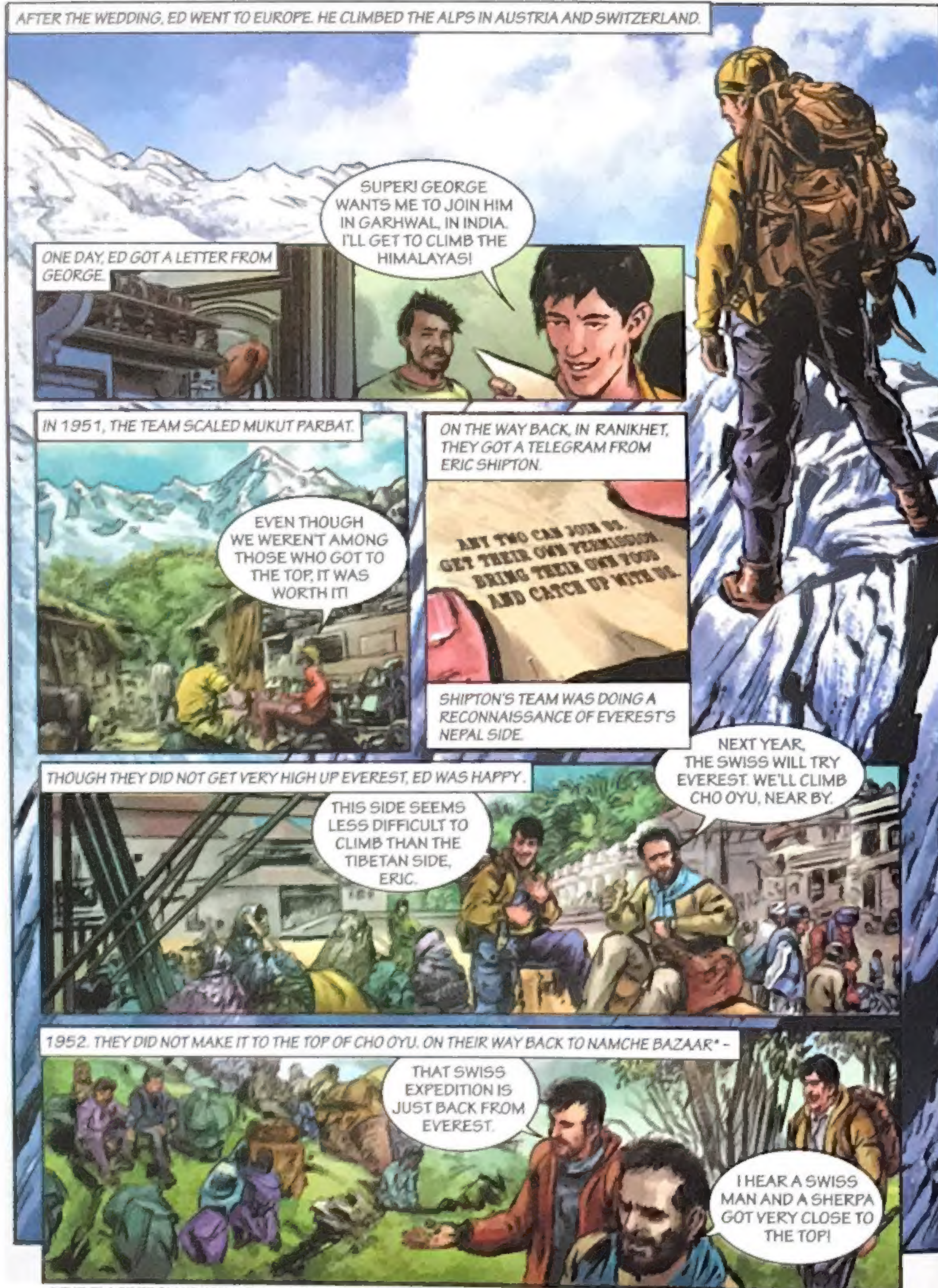
SOME DAY, ED.

IN 1949, ED AND HIS PARENTS SAILED TO ENGLAND,  
WHERE JUNE WAS GETTING MARRIED.

\* A MOUNTAIN IN NEW ZEALAND



AFTER THE WEDDING, ED WENT TO EUROPE. HE CLIMBED THE ALPS IN AUSTRIA AND SWITZERLAND.



ONE DAY, ED GOT A LETTER FROM GEORGE.

SUPER! GEORGE WANTS ME TO JOIN HIM IN GARHWAL, IN INDIA. I'LL GET TO CLIMB THE HIMALAYAS!

IN 1951, THE TEAM SCALED MUKUT PARBAT.

EVEN THOUGH WE WEREN'T AMONG THOSE WHO GOT TO THE TOP, IT WAS WORTH IT!

ON THE WAY BACK, IN RANIKHET, THEY GOT A TELEGRAM FROM ERIC SHIPTON.

ANY TWO CAN JOIN US. GET THEIR OWN PERMISSION. BRING THEIR OWN TOOLS AND CATCH UP WITH US.

SHIPTON'S TEAM WAS DOING A RECONNAISSANCE OF EVEREST'S NEPAL SIDE.

NEXT YEAR, THE SWISS WILL TRY EVEREST. WE'LL CLIMB CHO OYU, NEAR BY.

THOUGH THEY DID NOT GET VERY HIGH UP EVEREST, ED WAS HAPPY.

THIS SIDE SEEMS LESS DIFFICULT TO CLIMB THAN THE TIBETAN SIDE, ERIC.

1952. THEY DID NOT MAKE IT TO THE TOP OF CHO OYU. ON THEIR WAY BACK TO NAMCHE BAZAAR\* -

THAT SWISS EXPEDITION IS JUST BACK FROM EVEREST.

I HEAR A SWISS MAN AND A SHERPA GOT VERY CLOSE TO THE TOP!

\* THE PLACE FROM WHICH MOST TREKS TO EVEREST START

THE SWISS MAN WAS NAMED RAYMOND LAMBERT, AND THE SHERPA WAS TENZING! EARLIER THAT YEAR, IN APRIL, TENZING HAD JOINED A SWISS EXPEDITION TO EVEREST -

LAMBERT HAD GROWN UP IN THE ALPS. HE HAD LOST ALL HIS TOES TO FROSTBITE, BUT HE WAS STILL ONE OF THE BEST CLIMBERS AROUND. HE AND TENZING BECAME FAST FRIENDS.



TIRED YET, TENZING?

NOT AT ALL!

I THINK YOU HAVE A SECRET THIRD LUNG, TENZING! LOOK HOW THE REST OF US ARE STRUGGLING FOR AIR!

WHERE OTHER PEOPLE SEEMED TO TIRE IN THE THIN AIR OF THE HIGHER ALTITUDES, TENZING SEEMED TO THRIVE IN IT!

I'LL NEED IT IN THIS WEATHER!

THE STORM'S GETTING WORSE.

WE CAN'T GIVE UP SO EASILY. LET'S TRY THE SUMMIT.

THEY TURNED AND WENT DOWN.

BUT THEY COULD HARDLY MOVE. EVEN TENZING WAS BEGINNING TO FEEL DIZZY.

THEY HAD CLIMBED TO 8611 METRES, THE HIGHEST ANYONE HAD BEEN TILL THEN.



THE SWISS DECIDED TO CLIMB EVEREST AGAIN THAT YEAR, IN THE AUTUMN.



WE WANT TO REACH THE SUMMIT BEFORE THE BRITISH CLIMB IN THE SPRING OF 1953.



NO ONE EVER CLIMBS IN THE AUTUMN. YOU'RE ALREADY TIRED, AND YOU WANT TO CLIMB AS WINTER BEGINS?

TENZING'S FAMILY WAS APPALLED.



I HAVE TO TRY.

TENZING INSISTED ON GOING...

... BUT ANG LHAMU HAD BEEN RIGHT ABOUT THE WEATHER.



THE WIND IS SO STRONG!



LET'S TRY GOING A LITTLE FURTHER.



IT ONLY GOT WORSE.

I CAN ... BARELY MOVE!

STILL, THEY STRUGGLED ON.



EVENTUALLY THEY STOPPED.

THEY REALISED THEY HAD TO TURN BACK.



SILENTLY, THEY WALKED DOWN.



TENZING FELL ILL, DELIRIOUS WITH MALARIA AND EXHAUSTION.

YOU'VE BECOME SO THIN!

YOU MUSTN'T GO ON ANY EXPEDITIONS THIS YEAR.

SPRING, 1953. IN DARJEELING, A MRS HENDERSON OF THE HIMALAYAN CLUB SENT FOR TENZING.

THE BRITISH EXPEDITION TO EVEREST, LED BY JOHN HUNT, IS DETERMINED TO REACH THE SUMMIT.



THEY'D LIKE YOU TO JOIN AS THE SIRDAR\* AND A FULL MEMBER OF THE CLIMBING TEAM.

TENZING COULD NOT REFUSE.

ANG LHAMU WAS HORRIFIED.



YOU'RE MAD! YOU'VE BEEN ILL, AND YOU'RE SO WEAK!



I'VE TRIED TO CLIMB EVEREST SIX TIMES. I NEED TO TRY AGAIN THIS TIME.



TENZING'S FRIENDS GAVE HIM THE TRADITIONAL BUDDHIST FAREWELL SCARF, FOR LUCK ...



... HIS BENGALI FRIEND RABI MITRA GAVE HIM THE INDIAN FLAG ...

PUT THIS IN THE RIGHT PLACE!



... AND HIS DAUGHTER NIMA GAVE HIM AN OLD PENCIL TO PUT ON TOP OF EVEREST!

TWENTY OF THE BEST SHERPA CLIMBERS, INCLUDING DAWA THONDUP, LEFT WITH TENZING. TENZING WORE A RED SCARF LAMBERT HAD GIVEN HIM WHEN THEY PARTED.



THE EXPEDITION WILL GATHER IN KATHMANDU.



ED, I'D LIKE YOU TO MEET TENZING. YOU HAVEN'T CLIMBED TOGETHER, HAVE YOU?

I HEARD ABOUT YOUR RECORD CLIMB ON EVEREST LAST YEAR. I'VE WANTED TO MEET YOU!











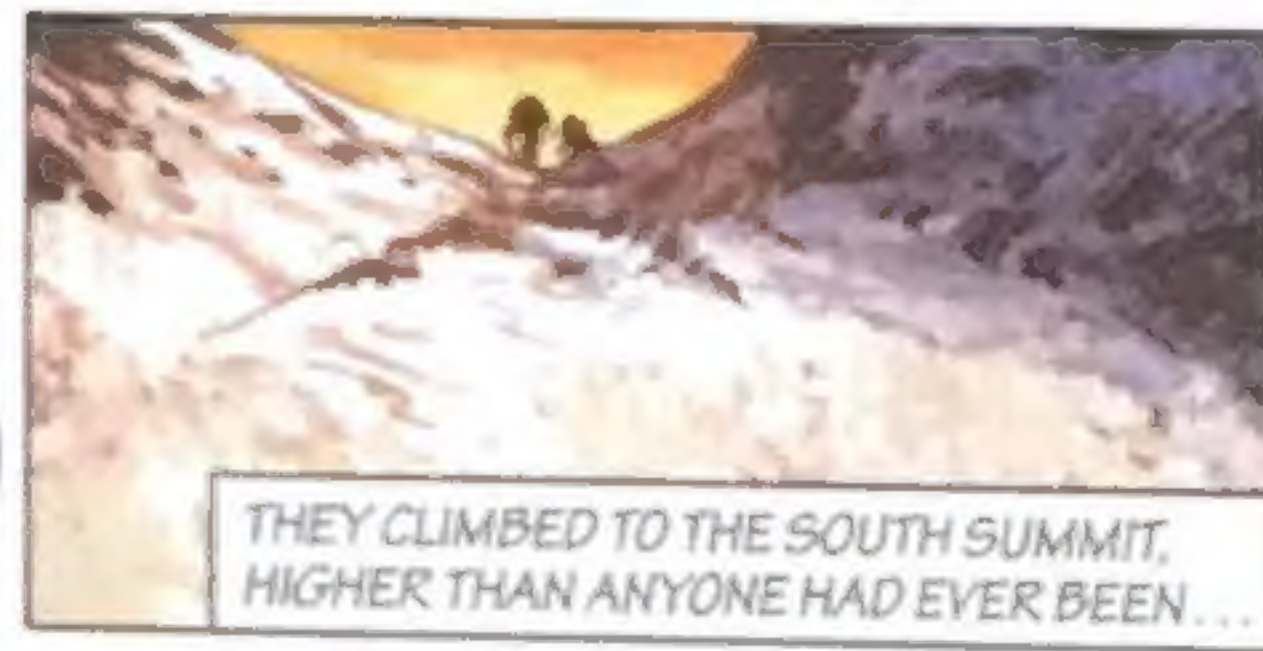




ON THE 26TH OF MAY, EVANS AND BOURDILLON MADE THE FIRST ATTEMPT.



DO YOU THINK THEY'VE REACHED THE TOP?



THEY CLIMBED TO THE SOUTH SUMMIT, HIGHER THAN ANYONE HAD EVER BEEN...



... AND RETURNED TO THE CAMP, EXHAUSTED.



THE OXYGEN GOT LOW. WE HAD TO TURN BACK.

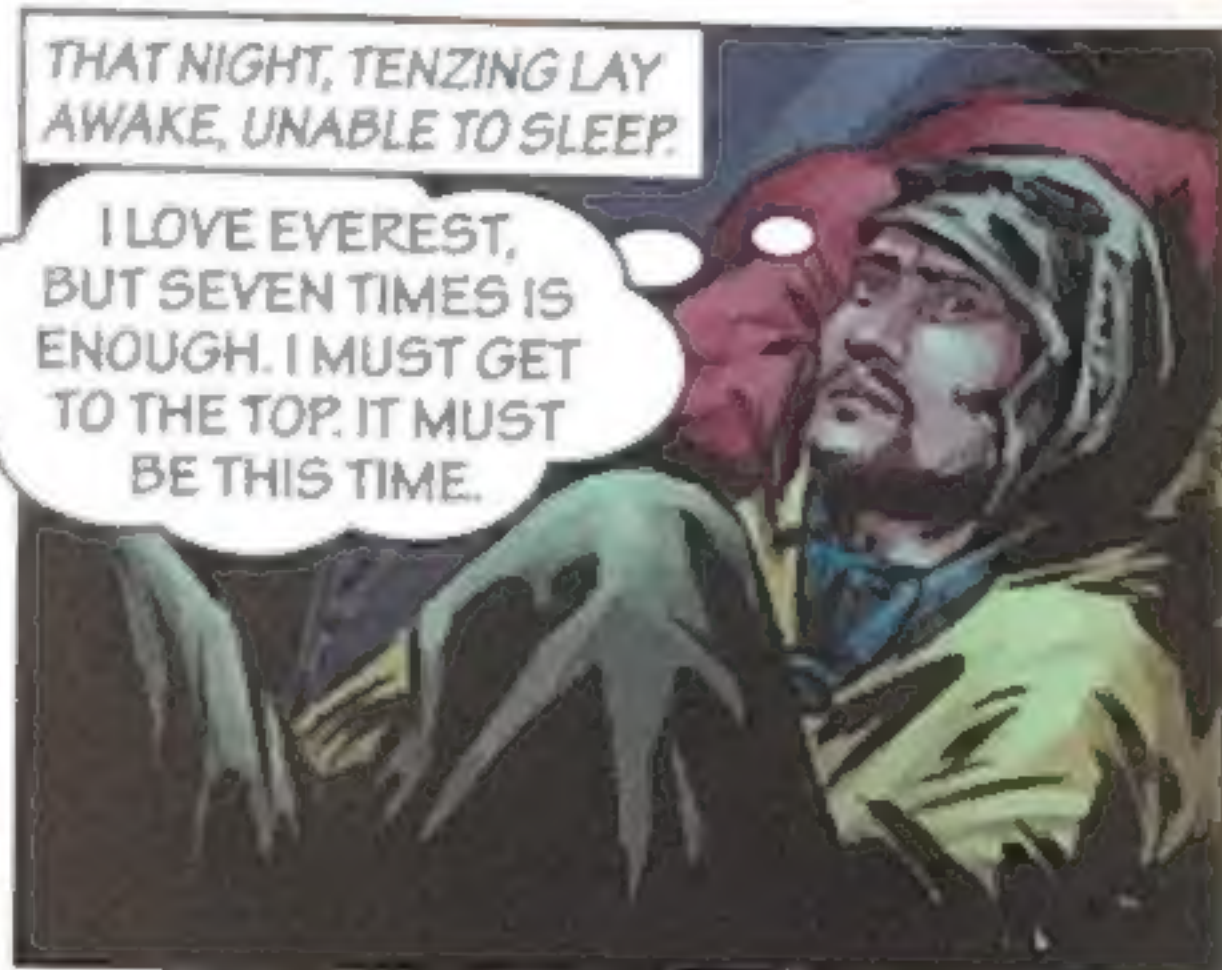
THE NEXT DAY, THE WEATHER WORSENERD.



HUNT, EVANS, BOURDILLON, AND ANG TENBA MADE THEIR WAY BACK TO ADVANCE BASE, UNABLE TO STAY AT THE HIGH ALTITUDE ANY LONGER.

THAT NIGHT, TENZING LAY AWAKE, UNABLE TO SLEEP.

I LOVE EVEREST, BUT SEVEN TIMES IS ENOUGH. I MUST GET TO THE TOP. IT MUST BE THIS TIME.



AS HE FINALLY DOZED OFF, HE DREAMT OF YAKS AND A HORSE.



THE SHERPAS BELIEVE THAT TO DREAM OF ANIMALS IS VERY LUCKY.



THE NEXT DAY, GEORGE LOWE, ALF GREGORY, AND ANG NYIMA WENT AHEAD, CUTTING STEPS.

ED AND TENZING FOLLOWED WITH SUPPLIES.



THEY FOUND A SMALL SHELF UPON WHICH TO SET UP CAMP IX, A SINGLE TENT.

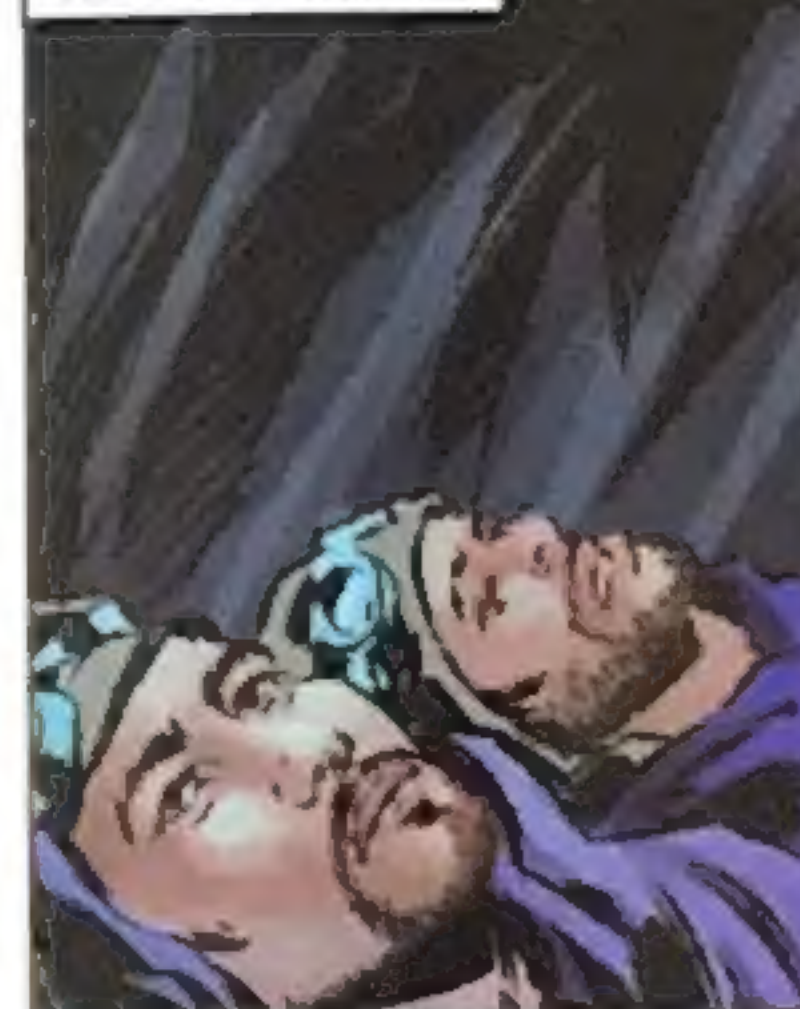


ONCE CAMP WAS SET UP - WE'D BETTER LEAVE NOW. GET SOME SLEEP BEFORE THE FINAL ATTEMPT TOMORROW.



GOOD LUCK!

THAT NIGHT THEY HUDDLED IN BED. AROUND MIDNIGHT, TENZING AWOKE.



NO WIND! CHOMOLUNGMA IS GOOD TO US.

THEN HE FELL ASLEEP AGAIN.

ON THE 29TH OF MAY, THEY AWOKE AT 3:30 IN THE MORNING.



MY BOOTS ARE FROZEN!

LET'S HOPE THEY MELT SOON.

THEY STARTED AT 6:30 AM.



ALL READY? LET'S GO!

ACCHA\* READY.

TENZING LED AT FIRST, SINCE HILLARY'S BOOTS WERE STILL UNCOMFORTABLE.

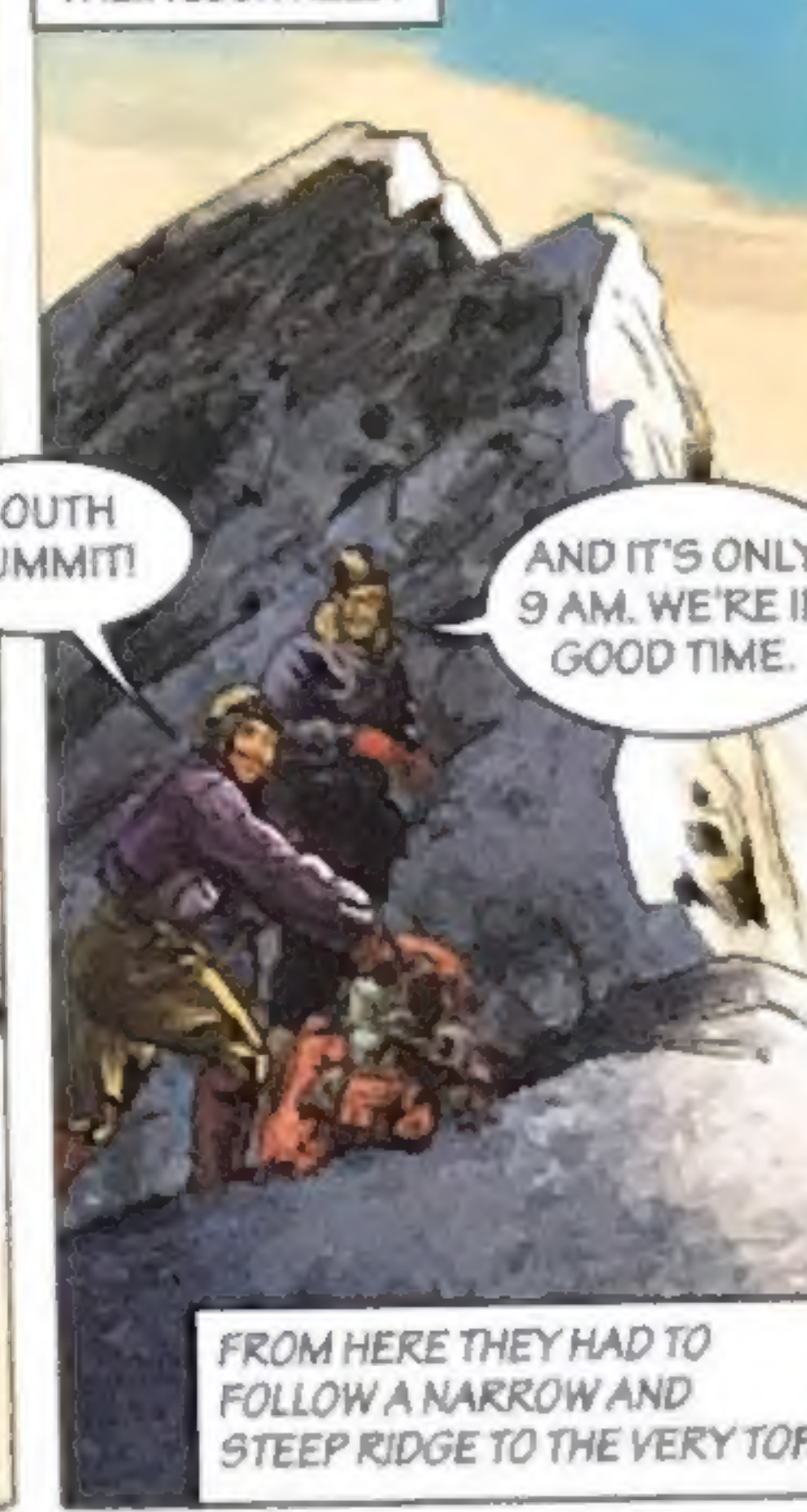
THEY SOON HIT THEIR FIRST BAD PATCH -



THIS MOUNTAIN IS SO DANGEROUS! LUCK IS ALMOST AS IMPORTANT AS SKILL.



THEIR LUCK HELD.



SOUTH SUMMIT!

AND IT'S ONLY 9 AM. WE'RE IN GOOD TIME.

FROM HERE THEY HAD TO FOLLOW A NARROW AND STEEP RIDGE TO THE VERY TOP



ON THE RIGHT WERE ICY CORNICES



... THAT COULD BREAK AND DROP THEM 10,000 FEET.

ON THE LEFT, A PRECIPICE



CHANGING OXYGEN CYLINDERS, THEY SET TO CUTTING STEPS, SLOWLY AND STEADILY.

AT THE END OF THIS, THEY HAD A NEW OBSTACLE, AN ALMOST VERTICAL WALL OF SNOW.



THE SNOW SLIDES OFF WHEN WE STEP ON IT.

IT HELD, AND SOON TENZING WAS FOLLOWING UP.



TENZING BELAYED THE ROPE. HILLARY CREEPT ALONG THE SIDE, HOPING THE ICE WOULD TAKE HIS WEIGHT -



ON THE OTHER SIDE, THEY CUT MORE STEPS. THE RIDGE GREW BROADER, THE SNOW BECAME SOFTER AND EASIER TO WALK ON.

THAT LOOKS LIKE TIBET.



WE'RE CLOSE TO THE TOP, TENZING!

NOW THERE WAS JUST ONE LAST HUMP.



I'LL BELAY YOU SOME ROPE.



READY?



ED CLIMBED UP.



THE NEXT MOMENT, TENZING STEPPED UP TOO. THEY WERE ON TOP!

ED WANTED TO SHAKE HANDS, BUT -



THEY TURNED OFF THEIR OXYGEN AND LOOKED AROUND. THE ENTIRE HIMALAYAN RANGE STRETCHED DIZZILY BEFORE THEM.



TENZING COULD SEE THE THYANGBOCHE MONASTERY NEARBY AND FURTHER AWAY, THE KHUMBU VALLEY, HIS HOME.



AND TO TENZING, EVEREST SEEMED NOT TERRIBLE, BUT LOVABLE - WARM, FRIENDLY AND LIVING.





HILLARY TOOK A PHOTO OF TENZING, HOLDING ALOFT HIS ICE AXE. ON IT WERE THE FLAGS OF THE UNITED NATIONS, BRITAIN, NEPAL AND INDIA.



TENZING KNELT DOWN. HE BURIED NIMA'S PENCIL AND SOME SWEETS; ED BURIED A CROSS JOHN HUNT HAD GIVEN HIM.



TENZING SAID A SILENT PRAYER.

THUJI CHEY, CHOMOLUNGMA. I AM GRATEFUL.

THEY ATE A SWEET EACH FOR ENERGY.



THEY STAYED THERE FOR FIFTEEN MINUTES ALTOGETHER.



THEN THEY SET OFF ON THE LONG TRIP DOWNHILL.

BELOW, THE OTHERS WATCHED ANXIOUSLY FOR THEM.

THEIR TEAMMATES WERE THRILLED. THE BRITISH, ESPECIALLY WERE HAPPY THAT TENZING AND HILLARY HAD REACHED THE SUMMIT THE SAME WEEK THAT BRITAIN'S QUEEN ELIZABETH II WAS CROWNED.



IS IT REALLY TRUE?

IN NEPAL AND IN INDIA, TENZING FOUND HIMSELF BEING FETED BY HUGE CROWDS.



IN INDIA, HE EVEN GOT TO MEET THE PRIME MINISTER, JAWAHARLAL NEHRU.



NEHRU GAVE TENZING SEVERAL OF HIS OWN COATS TO WEAR TO BRITAIN.

AFTER THAT THE ENTIRE EXPEDITION WENT TO BRITAIN FOR FURTHER CELEBRATIONS.



BOTH TENZING AND HILLARY CONTINUED TO LEAD ADVENTUROUS LIVES. HILLARY WENT TO THE NORTH AND THE SOUTH POLES, AND SET UP A TRUST FOR THE SHERPAS. TENZING BECAME THE HEAD OF THE HIMALAYAN MOUNTAINEERING INSTITUTE IN DARJEELING. HE WAS ASSOCIATED WITH IT TILL HIS DEATH IN 1986, TEACHING AND INSPIRING A WHOLE GENERATION OF INDIAN CLIMBERS WITH A LOVE FOR THE MOUNTAINS.



## Climbing Mt Everest

IN 1856, A TRIGONOMETRIC SURVEY OF INDIA, CONDUCTED BY THE BRITISH, ESTABLISHED THAT MT EVEREST - KNOWN THEN AS CHOMOLUNGMA IN TIBET, AND SIMPLY AS PEAK XV TO THE BRITISH - WAS A LITTLE MORE THAN 20,000 FEET HIGH, MAKING IT THE TALLEST MOUNTAIN IN THE WORLD. NATURALLY, THIS ATTRACTED MOUNTAINEERS FROM ALL OVER THE WORLD, ALL EAGER TO CLIMB TO THE HIGHEST POINT ON EARTH.

IN 1921, THE FIRST EXPEDITION - A BRITISH ONE - DID A RECONNAISSANCE OF EVEREST. AMONG THE CLIMBERS WAS GEORGE MALLORY, WHO WOULD ATTEMPT TO CLIMB TO THE SUMMIT IN 1922, AND IN 1924.

IN 1924, MALLORY AND ANOTHER CLIMBER, ANDREW IRVINE ATTEMPTED TO REACH THE SUMMIT. THEY NEVER RETURNED - AND FOR MANY DECADES PEOPLE WONDERED IF THEY HAD REACHED THE TOP BEFORE THEY PERISHED. MALLORY'S BODY WAS FOUND ON EVEREST IN 1999.

IN 1953, TENZING NORGAY AND EDMUND HILLARY, PART OF A BRITISH EXPEDITION, REACHED THE TOP - AND RETURNED SAFELY.

IN 1975, JUNKO Tabei BECAME THE FIRST WOMAN TO REACH THE SUMMIT.

IN 1978, REINHOLD MESSNER AND PETER HABELER CLIMBED TO THE SUMMIT WITHOUT USING OXYGEN. MESSNER WOULD LATER, IN 1980, ALSO BECOME THE FIRST PERSON TO CLIMB TO THE SUMMIT ALONE.

IN 1984, BACHENDRI PAL BECAME THE FIRST INDIAN WOMAN - AND THE FIFTH WOMAN IN THE WORLD - TO CLIMB EVEREST.

IN 2010, 13-YEAR-OLD JORDAN ROMERO BECAME THE YOUNGEST PERSON TO SUMMIT EVEREST - EVEN YOUNGER THAN TEMBA TSHERI, WHO CLIMBED EVEREST IN 2001, WHEN HE WAS ONLY 15.

IN MAY 2011, APA SHERPA CREATED A NEW RECORD WHEN HE CLIMBED TO THE TOP OF EVEREST FOR THE 21ST TIME, MORE TIMES THAN ANYONE ELSE. HE FIRST CLIMBED TO THE TOP IN 1990, ALONG WITH EDMUND HILLARY'S SON, PETER.



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